



WLOV Newsletter for September 2019

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WLOV Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 11 - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. Panel Discussion on “**So, You Want to Write: 10 Things a Writer Needs to Know.**” Panel moderated by Diane Dean, with Manijeh Badiozamani on Writing Skills to Master; John Prince on Design and Self-Publishing; and Paula Howard on How to Conquer Book Promotion.

Wednesday, October 9 - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. **Protect Yourself Online.** Speaker will be Cyber Security Professional J. Gregory Leibolt. Mr. Leibolt has been with AT&T for 31 years, watching the development of the Internet and its problems. He will discuss cyber security awareness, and how best to protect yourself online.

October 17-20 - FWA's annual conference, Altamonte Springs. For details see:
<https://floridawriters.net/conferences/conference-2019/>

Wednesday, November 13 - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. Speaker will be a faculty member from Stetson University's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program.
Wednesday, December 11 - Annual Breakfast Christmas Party, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 - 11 am. Food and entertainment along with the installation of 2020 Board Members.

Message from Your Newsletter Editor

Larry Martin

drlarry437@gmail.com



Now that Hurricane Dorian is past us, things have pretty much returned to normal in The Villages, which means “very active” for WLOV members. Be sure to read President Paula Howard’s Message for updates on all that’s happening. And, unless you’ve been living in a cave without WiFi, by now you should know that our regular meeting date and time have changed to the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from 9 to 11 am. In this issue we continue with our monthly interview of a WLOV member. Starting on page 10, read about author and piano-teaching legend Rosamond van der Linde. Also find herein many items related to writing, publishing and marketing. For those hankering to go back to college, note Stetson U’s announcement of a Creative Writing Scholarship, page 9.

As always, send me any suggestions for items you would like to see in the newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

By Paula Howard

WLOVwriters@gmail.com



Hi Everyone!

Did you know that the Hurricane Center reuses names every six years? That’s what a quiz in the Villages Daily Sun said. I don’t mind seeing “Dorian” again in six years since it didn’t really pose a big problem for The Villages. Maybe that’s because we were so prepared! (I have enough water at home to last months!) The storm was so slow moving (just 1 mph at one point) that it stretched our Labor Day weekend into a five-day holiday. Rec centers closed, open houses cancelled, music on the square shut down.

How did everyone do? Are you bored yet? Time to get Fall moving... There is so much going on, that my President’s Message is divided into 5 Sections. Each one is important, so please read!

Finally, note that we have a new general email for questions and comments, and to make suggestions for speaker programs: WLOVwriters@gmail.com. This email will also be used for the “Contact Us” link in the WLOV website. Be safe, and hope to see you Wednesday morning, September 11, at Laurel Manor!

Section 1. Table Selection for Expo Exhibitors

Section 2. New WLOV Website for Membership payments

Section 3. Update on WLOV’s 2020 Book and Author Expo

Section 4. Committee Help Wanted

Section 5. Nominations and suggestions for the WLOV Board

Section 1. Table Selection for Expo Exhibitors

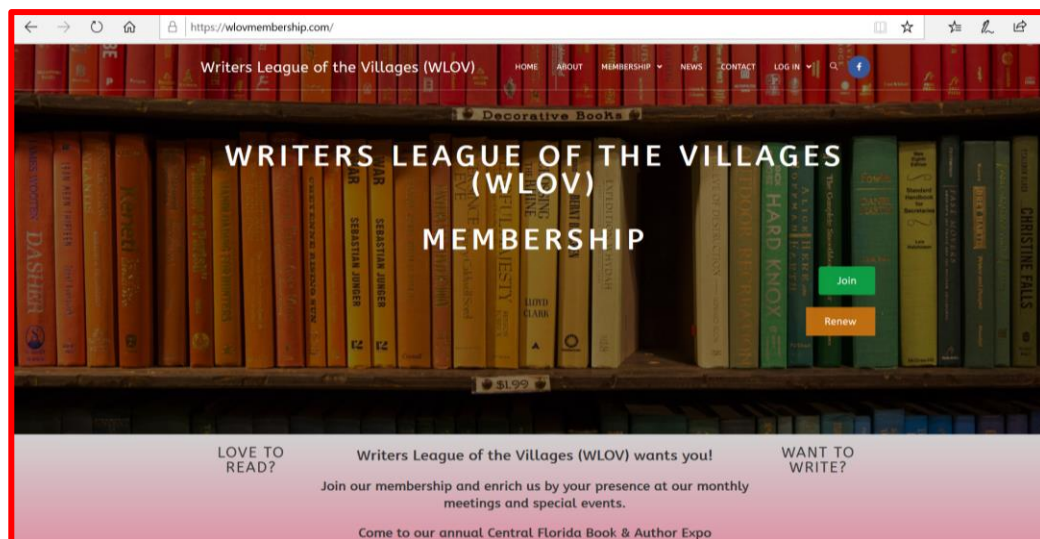
Table Selection for Expo 2020 Exhibitors will begin this Wednesday, **September 11, 2019.**

Table selection will **commence at 8:00 am**, stop from 9 to 11 am for the general meeting, and resume for another half-hour from 11 to 11:30 am. If you are unable to join us on September 11th, you can also select a table at the October 9 general meeting. After that, tables will be assigned by the EXPO Committee. Any questions about table assignment should be addressed to the Committee Chairperson, Jack Hayes, at jlh1937@comcast.net.

Your 2020 dues must be paid by December 15 in order for your table selection to remain at the WLOV reduced membership price. Since WLOV now has an online membership website, why not take advantage of this new way to pay your dues? The procedure is easy; just follow the steps outlined in Section 2.

Section 2. New WLOV Website for Membership Payments

We now have a Membership website to facilitate payments.



STEP 1: Go to www.wlovmembership.com (home screen above)

STEP 2: *EVERYONE* (this means YOU) must **Join** the first time you use this web page. Click on the green “Join” box. Fill out the questionnaire. This captures your information and creates a WLOV account for you online. You will need this account with ID and PASSORD for the future, so keep it safe.

STEP 3: Now hit the **LOG IN** tab at the top (you are already logged-in from registration) and hit **PAYMENT**.

- This button will take you to the payment page to a PayPal interface. There you may pay via Paypal if you already have a Paypal account, or otherwise enter your credit card information. Dues are \$15 a year.
- Now select the button for your 2020 dues payment.
- Proceed to pay.

That's it! Paypal is WLOV's processing agent and sends your payment to WLOV's bank account. You will receive an email notice of payment for your records. And to repeat: **2020 dues must be paid by December 15, 2019, in order to keep the reduced WLOV membership price for the 2020 Expo.**

NOTE: If you need help with the membership payment online, please contact: Nancy Hellekson, WLOV's Online Membership Chair at: nancy.hellekson@gmail.com, phone number 352-460-2730.

Section 3. Update on WLOV's 2020 Book and Author Expo

What: WLOV's Central Florida Book & Author Expo

Location, Date & Time: Eisenhower Rec Center, 3560 Buena Vista Blvd, Sunday, January 26, 2020, from 11 am to 4 pm. Event is free and open to the public

Chairman of Expo Committee: WLOV award-winning author Jack Hayes; contact him at jlh1937@comcast.net

More Info About Expo 2020: Over 70 authors from The Villages and Central Florida will display and sell their books with autographs, if desired. Books on sale include genres such as fiction, non-fiction, mystery, romance, memoirs, biographies, fantasy, children's themes and much more. Exhibitors will also include professionals who offer editing, publishing, design, and promotion services.

Raffles will offer prizes throughout the Expo along with a new venture: seminars. This year, scheduled seminars will feature topics such as "How to Write a Book" and "How to Get Your Book Published."

Expo is co-sponsored by Writers League of the Villages (WLOV) and The Villages Recreation and Parks Department. Other Expo exhibitors will include the Florida Writers Association, and Friends of the Library.

For the first time, David Houck, founder of the SoZo Kids Charity will be there to talk about SoZo, a non-profit organization helping combat rural poverty near the Ocala National Forest. Mr. Houck will answer questions and accept donations.

Section 4. Committee Help Wanted

Please consider giving a few hours of your time to serve on a committee of your choice. The "Book Expo Author Relief Committee" simply requires covering an author's table for a short time at the January 26th Book Expo, while they take a break. Please send an email to WLOVwriters@gmail.com if you are able to serve on any of the following committees.

- December Holiday Party Planning
- Hospitality Committee
- Book Expo Author Relief Committee
- Corresponding Secretary
- Miscellaneous Committee

Section 5. Nominations and suggestions for the WLOV Board

If interested in running for a position on the WLOV Board (treasurer, secretary, president elect) please send an email with your intention to WLOVwriters@gmail.com. Our next Board meeting will be Monday, September 16. And if you have any suggestions to the Board for future programs (or anything else), please send an email to WLOVwriters@gmail.com.

WLOV Meet and Greet Pics, August 14, 2019

This was a most successful event, one we hope to repeat next year. Eleven Villages' writers groups were represented.



Announcing the Estella Shivers Edward Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest

Millard Johnson



Edward Bulwer-Lytton is known for having written what many consider one of the worst opening sentences in the English Language; it appears in his 1930 novel *Paul Clifford*.

“It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents — except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the housetops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness.”

Since 1982, Bulwer-Lytton contests have been held based on bad opening sentences of hypothetical novels. We are following that dubious tradition by announcing The Villages’ own Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest (BLFC). Rules for the BLFC are simple:

- Each entry must consist of a single sentence, but you may submit as many entries as you wish.
- Sentences may be of any length, but we strongly recommend that entries not go beyond 50 or 60 words. **Entries must be “original” (as it were) and previously unpublished.**
- Entries may be in any fiction genre.
- The deadline for receipt is September 30, 2019. Only Villages residents may enter.
- In keeping with the high seriousness of the contest, a \$20 cash prize will be awarded to the winner. The prize was originally given by Estella Shivers in her first writing contest. We continue Estella’s initiative by passing on part of her prize, supplemented by donations from her admirers. The cash prize will be awarded only if we receive entries from at least ten (10) different Villagers.
- Please send your entries to zendog3@mac.com with the subject “Bulwer-Lytton Contest.”
- Decision of the judge (me) is final.
- Finally, a tip: resist the temptation to work some variation of “it was a dark and stormy night.”

To learn more about the original BLFC go to <https://www.bulwer-lytton.com/copy-of-about-1>.

To read some other examples of entries in other contests go here:

<https://thoughtcatalog.com/nico-lang/2013/09/33-hilariously-terrible-novel-sentences-you-need-to-read/>

Love Story Submissions Reminder

Don’t forget WLOV’s third annual Valentine’s Love Story Event, a public reading of love stories, poems, and songs, to be held February 14, 2020. Forms for blinded submissions have been sent out via email. Please email me if you need these submission forms. They are simple, and designed to keep your author data separate from your story, and tie the two together with a single number. Deadline for submissions is December 31.

Millard Johnson

zendog3@mac.com

Don't throw out that semicolon; it could be useful.

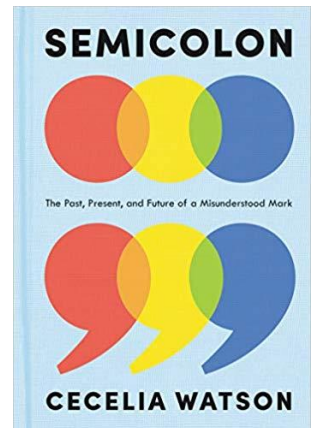
By Larry Martin

Anyone with a modicum of writing experience knows there are two broad types of rules for the craft: ones you follow and ones you don't. Cynics among us think it's even simpler, stating: *there are no rules*. At least none worth a damn. Good writing defies adhering to any set of rules. Pulitzer-prize winning author Cormac McCarthy's 2005 novel *No Country for Old Men* has lots of dialogue but *no* quotation marks. Ditto for E. L. Doctorow's well-received novel *The March*.

Which brings me to the semicolon. You can't go to a writing critique group these days without someone criticizing your use of semicolons. You are apt to be told they are passe', not needed, should be shunned. Critics love to quote Kurt Vonnegut:

"Do not use semicolons. They are transvestite hermaphrodites representing absolutely nothing. All they do is show you've been to college."

Yet the semi-colon was trendy in the 19th century. Herman Melville used semicolons more than 4000 times in *Moby Dick*. These days, though, the punctuation mark is all but verboten, vilified by the likes of Stephen King, Mark A. Pryor and other notable writers.



Now we have a spirited defense of the lowly mark, in the new book: *Semicolon: The Past, Present, and Future of a Misunderstood Mark*. (Amazon link: <https://www.amazon.com/Semicolon-Past-Present-Future-Misunderstood/dp/0062853058/>.) The author, Cecilia Watson, asks: "How did the semicolon, once regarded with admiration, come to seem so offensive, so unwieldy, to so many people?" In a nutshell, she blames the rule books; get rid of them. And use semicolons if they suit your purpose.

THEY'RE BACK!! BOOK SIGNINGS AT WHISPERING OAKS WINERY WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 1-4 pm

By Rita Boehm
ritab1423@gmail.com

If you are interested in being a part of the WLOV author book sales/signings at Whispering Oaks Winery, please contact me at ritab1423@gmail.com. The address is 10934 S Hwy 475, Oxford Fl.

Thanks to the support of Darryl Siemer, proprietor of Whispering Oaks, these book signings are developing momentum and resulting in good exposure for our authors.

If you've participated in the past and are interested in participating again, please submit the requested information. We are starting over for the new season, and everyone is welcome.

**A HUGE thank-you to Ann Heathman for starting this event and chairing it in the past!!
THANKS, ANN!!!**

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



WLOV Members who are Finalists in the Florida Writers Association's Royal Palm Literary Awards (in alphabetical order).

Their entries cover several writing genres, including historical fiction, short stories, non-fiction, picture books, and novels. Winners for each genre category will be announced at the FWA convention banquet in Altamonte Springs, October 19.

Peggy Best
Rita Boehm
Jack Hayes
Linda Leggett
John Mallon
Larry Martin
Mark Newhouse
Barbara Rein
Paula Tucker



WLOV Members with a story in 2019 FWA Collection anthology: *Writers at Work*.

60 stories are chosen out of more than 200 submitted. The anthology is available for purchase on the FWA website, <https://floridawriters.net/>.

Peggy Best
Jenny Ferns
Paula Feuerstein
Larry Martin
Mark H. Newhouse
Carolee Owen



Recent News Items About WLOV Members

News items in print since the previous newsletter are grouped together. To read the recent articles, go to http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/july-august_2019-newsitems.pdf.

Ann Heathman - August Villages Magazine

Rick Greenberg - September Villages Magazine

To read earlier news items about our members, go to <http://wlov.weebly.com/wlov-newsletters-news-items-and-articles-by-members.html> and scroll down to News Items About Members.

Stetson U. Announces Villages Scholarship in Creative Writing

This was just announced via email to our president, Paula Howard. If interested, contact Stetson for further info.



Master of Fine Arts: Creative Writing
The Villages Scholarship

Provides \$10,000 annually to residents
of The Villages enrolled in Stetson's
MFA of the Americas program.

Stetson University MFA of the Americas
stetson.edu/mfa // gradadmission@stetson.edu
800-688-0101 // 386-822-7100

New B&N Policy Hasn't Hit the Local Villages Store--Yet

By John W. Prince

Barnes & Noble's new CEO, James Daunt, announced early in August that changes would be coming to the 627 stores in America's biggest bookstore chain, according to an article in The Wall Street Journal.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/british-bookseller-plots-turnaround-at-barnes-noble-11565258401?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=2>

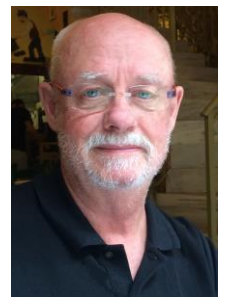
Daunt will also remain head of Britain's Waterstones chain, the largest in the U.K. He was instrumental in leading Waterstones through a difficult period.

The change in store policy would include "Giving individual stores the autonomy to buy and promote books they bet will resonate with the local clientele," according to the article.

"There should be no restrictions on what books your stock, how you display them, what you promote. Each bookshop is quite individual," Mr. Daunt said. B&N's previous policy has been homogenous—all of the stores have had much the same inventory and any promotion of local authors had to hew to "corporate rules." Thus, no self-published books could be stocked because (among other excuses) "they can't be returned."

This new attitude may be good news for The Villages writers who want to promote their books locally. Writers in The Villages talk about the "old days" when they could set up book signings at the B&N in Sumter Landing, and have their books in the local store inventory. That liberal policy changed a while ago and it has been much more difficult, if not impossible, to get cooperation from local store management, they now say.

The manager of the Sumter Landing B&N states the new policy has not yet percolated down to the individual store level, and she has no idea when that will happen. Let's hope it happens soon.



WLOV member Rosamond van der Linde – Author and Piano Teaching Legend

Interviewed by Larry Martin
WLOV Newsletter Editor

The following is from “About the Author” in Rosamond van der Linde’s first book, *A Piano in Every Room*:

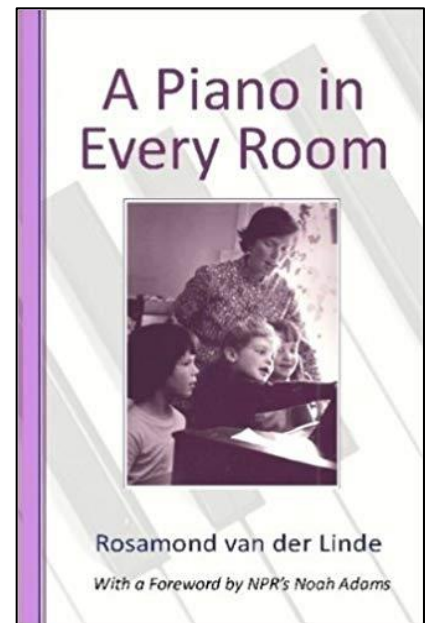
Rosamond van der Linde is a noted piano teacher, pianist, and author of numerous articles for music journals. She has founded five ongoing music schools in the U.S.A. and Canada, as well as one in the Caribbean, on the Island of St. Eustatius. Her students have won local, regional and national competitions in piano and composition, and some have had their works performed in Carnegie Hall. The Sonatina School of Piano was featured in The New York Times (2002), in *Piano Lessons* by Noah Adams (of National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered”), and on CNN Evening News (2003). It has also been written about in Yankee Magazine, Seventeen, Keyboard Companion, Clavier, and The Piano Quarterly.”

LM: Wow! Where to begin? Let’s start with your first book, *A Piano in Every Room*, published in 2010. What’s it about?

RvdL: True to the rules of writing – authors must be able to say what their book is about in under 30 seconds. Therefore: This is the story of 7 pianists living in a 42-room house with 34 pianos. And every note of it is true!

LM: Ok, now you can elaborate. Who are the pianists, where is the house, and why so many pianos?

RvdL: The 42-room house is in Bennington, VT, where we set up a summer piano camp for kids. We called it the Summer Sonatina School. The students lived in the house during their camp session. The “7 pianists” who lived there full time were myself and husband Rein van der Linde, and our five children (daughters Polly, Tasha, Amy, Erica, and son Tiaan). We all played the piano. My book is a memoir of how it all began, and then how it developed into one of the country’s premier summer piano camps.



<https://www.amazon.com/Piano-Every-Room-Rosamond-Linde/dp/0557745640/>

LM: What is your own personal ‘piano history’?

RvdL: I wanted to play piano since I was seven years old, but my parents had no piano, so this was a moot point. I begged for lessons for so long that when I was 15 years old, my parents gave me piano lessons for one year. After that, if I liked the lessons, I was on my own to pay for them. I started lessons but the teacher was not to my liking. She never explained anything. You need to have a teacher who can explain the quirks and idiosyncrasies of music study. For instance, she never told me to *ritard* in order to end a piece (the word means gradually play slower), nor explained words like *lusingando*, (a coaxing, caressing, flattering, or alluring style). Also, to play intimately. And I wanted to learn all this as I was studying piano, which was not how it was taught then. Even today, music theory is mostly taught as a separate subject, unfortunately.

LM: And your writing?

RvdL: I have kept diaries since age seven. These diaries served me well when I was ready to write my first book. For *A Piano in Every Room* I had saved all the pertinent stories and papers about our music school in Vermont. That book came out in 2010. Then I wrote another, based on my life in the Caribbean (see below).

LM: How did the Sonatina School get started?

RvdL: When two of our children were ages six and seven, we looked all over the world for a piano camp. There were a few, but not for children so young. If the world is not set up for what you want, you sometimes have to create it. Summer Sonatina Opus 1 began the very next summer (1969) with one student attending. There was, as yet, no name for the school. We did not even know what we were doing but we learned on the job! We began in a 12-room house in North Bennington, Vermont.



Current home of Sonatina piano camp, in Bennington, VT. The website is <https://www.sonatina.com/>.

LM: Did adults attend also?

RvdL: Not in the beginning. We started with just teaching children. The adults were invited only later, after parents kept begging to attend with their kids. Now kids and teens from age 7 up to 20 attend during the summer, and adults come the rest of the year, for 10 days at a time (the adult program is called Sonata). Now we get adults from all over the world.

LM? Do you have to audition to attend the camp, or is it open to anyone?

RvdL: No auditions! Anyone can attend. That is the beauty of the program.

LM: NPR’s Noah Adams has a nice Forward in your book. Did you personally teach him piano when he attended Sonatina?

RvdL: Yes, I did. Noah was a total beginner. His lessons occurred in Room 6, which was the laundry room! He wanted to play a piece called “Misty.” For a beginner, this is close to impossible. Poor Noah, he did not realize the complications of 4 voices in a piece; he just liked the sound. I found other pieces for him that were more suitable to his level

LM: In *A Piano in Every Room*, you write about your five talented children, four girls and one boy. What are they all doing now?

RvdL: Each child was hired by the school to help teach, starting when they were 10. That is how they all turned out to be piano teachers, but they have other talents as well. Two of our children attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York. They traveled every week from Bennington, for piano lessons, music theory etc. One child entered the Miss America Competition and won the talent. Another daughter was a model for some agency and traveled to Europe.

Family photo from the early 1990s. Left to right: Tiaan, Tasha, Erica, Rein, Rosamond, Amy, Polly

Polly, the eldest, now runs all the Piano Camps. She is even better at it than me and my husband! She just celebrated the 50th year of our school. Parents are included in the education of the children.

Tasha, the second child created a music school in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, and then went on to start an academic program, also in Canada. She created the Touchstone School where the parents are part of the school program. The school is still in operation even though Tasha lives elsewhere.

Amy, the third daughter, is a fabulous piano teacher in her own right. She wants students to crave those piano lessons and she makes sure that they do. For instance, if a kid does not want to play piano, she takes them to museums etc. She tries to find their passion.

Erica, the youngest daughter, created the “Piano Matchmaker.com” She matches clients to pianos in a remarkable way. She knows each piano has its own personality and, in this manner, can match you up with the perfect piano. For years, Erica worked at Steinway Hall in sales, and sold over 3.5 million dollars’ worth of pianos. She went to business school specifically for her interest in selling pianos.

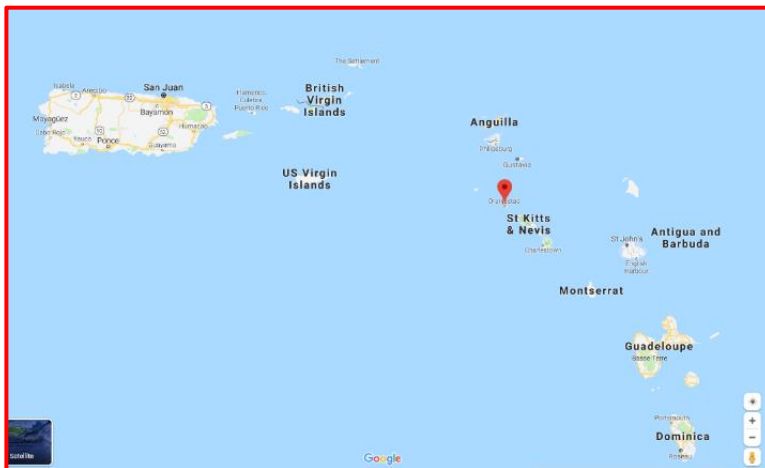
As for the last child we had was finally a son, Fredrik Christiaan van der Linde (a Dutch name). We call him Tiaan to this day. Tiaan also plays piano and violin. He teaches piano and plays the fiddle with friends from his hometown of Burke, Vermont. Tiaan and his family are now in Hawaii, where he will be involved with the Asian Pacific International School for the next two years. He and his wife, Lindley, will work in administration and teach various courses. His children are able to attend that international school.

All our children have taught all their own children, so I have 12 piano-playing grandchildren!



LM: Your first husband Rein van der Linde, the father of your five kids, passed away in 1996, a few years after you had built a winter home on St. Eustatius. Why that island? [See map; red dot is St. Eustatius]

RvdL: Rein came from Holland after World War II. Rein was in the Hunger Winter in Holland in 1944 and 1945. He was studying to be a doctor in Holland but the war got in the way. At age 20, he went to America to search for a better life. In Miami he was arrested for entering a phone booth for blacks only. The American Consulate said, “if you attend school immediately in Florida, we will not deport you.” Eventually, Rein became an American citizen and studied mathematics, in which he received a PhD.



We married in 1958. Later in life Rein acquired leukemia from having been in contact with radiation during his work at the Lenox hospital in NYC years earlier. He died in 1996. But before that, we built a home in Saint Eustatius, a Dutch Island in the Caribbean. My second book describes my 30 years on that island – *The Land of No Laws; The Saga of a Small Caribbean Island*.

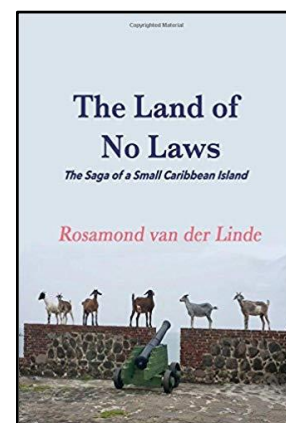
LM: Did you remarry?

RvdL: Yes, I married James Paul Gilmartin in 2000 on the island of Saint Eustatius. Unfortunately, James Paul died of Prostate Cancer in 2005.

LM: After you started teaching piano in St. Eustatius, you got arrested for that very activity, something you write about in your second book, *The Land of No Laws* (published 2018). What really happened?

RvdL: I was arrested when I was teaching my first class of piano with ten children, ages 8-10. There is a chapter in my second book about this. I really went to jail but did not spend a night there. Believe it or not the charge was “teaching piano.” The government should have hired me to teach some of the locals, since that was the issue. When they asked me if I had papers, I said yes because I was certified in the US for piano teaching. Guess they meant the papers for their country. Anyway, I soon found a way to teach piano on the island.

<https://www.amazon.com/Land-Laws-Rosamond-van-Linde/dp/1977703674/>



LM: How do you market your books? Do you try to reach pianists or any group?

RvdL: We market to any and all people who have an interest. In Manchester, NH we had a lot of luck with all the libraries in the state. We went to about 25 different libraries to give a speech about our books. We sold many books to the Rotary Club and other civic organizations. We went to Maine, NH, VT and Massachusetts. We have sold around 5,000 books. I can tell you that it is very different in Florida. The libraries here are not as eager to help you.

Of course, the book is available on Amazon, and I also have a website where you can order the book: <https://rosamondvanderlinde.com/>.

LM: You now live with your partner “Moe” Lamy, in the Village of Rio Ponderosa. Last year, WLOV member John Prince wrote a short piece about both of you for Villages-news.com (URL and picture below). When did you meet, and how did you end up moving to The Villages?

RvdL: I met Moe through on-line dating in 2009, in New Hampshire. We left the northeast because of the harsh winters, and moved to the Villages in 2014. I still teach piano to this day, and love my students.



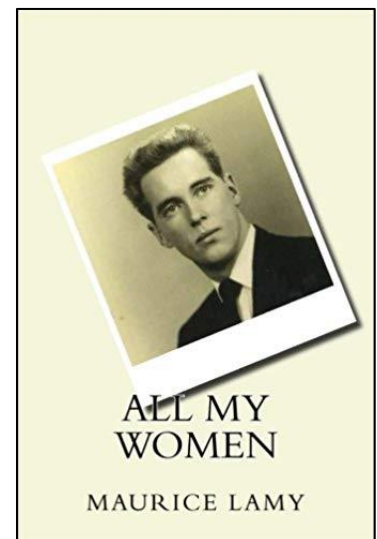
<https://www.villages-news.com/2018/05/12/villagers-brought-together-through-online-dating-site-spend-their-days-writing-together-side-by-side/>

LM: At WLOV’s annual Book and Author Expo, in addition to your own two books, you displayed Moe’s book, titled *All My Women*. What’s that about, and are you in it?

RVDL: It’s about his life. Moe ran away from home to join the army at age 16. In this memoir he recounts his many dates, and about his life as a drummer. He decided to write his life story when his kids gave him a list of questions about his past. Moe sells many books based solely on its cool title.

LM: Are you in it?

RvdL: Yes, I am. And a photo of me, to boot



<https://www.amazon.com/All-My-Women-Maurice-Lamy/dp/1542597927/>

LM: I've been to your house in the village of Rio Ponderosa. Can't miss it riding down the street – it's the one with the piano keyboard on the driveway. How did you get that done?

RvdL: Moe and I made a template of the keyboard, and we hired a painter to do the job. It's permanent, part of the driveway. We love it.



LM: As for teaching piano, what kind of schedule do you keep, and do you teach both adults and kids?

RvdL: Yes, I have indeed continued teaching. It was a hard go at first, because living in The Villages limited me to only seniors. Now, though, I teach both adults and children (the latter, of course, live outside The Villages). I do not really teach them differently. I just adjust the language to fit the age and level. I teach on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. I have one adult student who is playing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, and I mean the hardest version of that work.

LM: The Sonatina piano school you founded just had its 50th anniversary in Bennington, Vermont. Tell us about that event.

RvdL: My daughter Polly planned the 50th Anniversary on her own. The town of Bennington wanted a big parade, but Polly had other ideas: the Bennington Stomp. This was a huge project for the town of Bennington. There was a big article in the newspaper, and a great picture of the Stomp held at one of the town's intersections.



Downtown pauses for ... 'The Bennington Stomp'!

Performance by piano camp students, faculty punctuates Summer Sonatina's 50th anniversary

Picture and headline above are from The Bennington Banner, July 28, 2019. Article states this was the “world premiere of **The Bennington Stomp**, a **Summer Sonatina** performance by four pianists and a chorus of 50 piano camp students decked out in top hats and black Sonatina T-shirts.”

<https://www.benningtonbanner.com/stories/downtown-pauses-for-the-bennington-stomp,580674>

LM: Are you writing anything now?

RvdL: Oh yes, of course. I cannot help myself. The next book will be about another portion of my life with Rein, my first husband, mainly the 46 summers we spent on Deer Island in New Brunswick, Canada. I am up to Chapter Four. Hopefully the book will be finished in my lifetime!

LM: Do you belong to a writing critique club?

RvdL: Yes, the Memoir Writing Club, which meets in Chula Vista Rec Center Tuesday mornings. There are actually two memoir-oriented critique groups that meet in Chula Vista on Tuesday morning, and I go to the one called Memoir Writing, which is now a closed group. The other one is called Memoir Plus Writing, and is an open group. Yes, I know it’s confusing: two similarly-named groups, both meeting in the same rec center the same morning of the week. But they are different, with different rules and different members. The feedback I receive in my group is superb, and has greatly improved my writing. [Editor’s Note: See Chula Vista Tuesday club listing, pulled from the Rec News last month.]



TUESDAY AUG. 20	
9 am	Memoir Writing
9 am	Billiards (Beginner Lessons)
10 am	Memoir Plus Writing
10 am	Billiards (Organized Play/Beginner/Advanced Beginner)
12:30 pm	Fun Ladies
5 pm	Cards Unlimited

Chula Vista club listings for Tuesdays

LM: Looking back over your long life, would you have done anything differently?

RvdL: Not at all! I have had a whale of a life, and it still continues with many adventures.

LM: Thanks, Rosamond!

Cartoons (from *The New Yorker*)

